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aspect also of value in calling attention to the important labors of Bolzano (1781-1848) whom the author regards as the legitimate founder of modern formalism. In a concluding chapter, Dr. Palágyi discusses his own position with regard to the relations obtaining between psychology and logic.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO A PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY OF MUSIC. By *Max Meyer, Ph.D.*, Professor of Experimental Psychology. Published by the University of Missouri. 1901. Pages, 80. Price, 75 cents.

There appears to be considerable competition between the American universities in the publication of series of original studies in the various departments of research, and during the past year the University of Missouri has also joined the ranks of the publishers of original theses. The present series is edited by Dr. Frank Thilly, Professor of Philosophy, and the first work is the present study of a *Psychological Theory of Music*, by Dr. Max Meyer, Professor of Psychology. Dr. Meyer contends that musical theory, if it is to be at all scientific, must be psychological; it is a department of æsthetics, and neither the physicists nor the physiologists can prove by physical or physiological laws why we must enjoy certain combinations of tones. The physical and the physiological concepts have their proper functions, but the æsthetic significance of music can consist only in their relation to psychological concepts. Furthermore, the author contends that the most important group of musical facts is the one referred to by the scientific term "melody"; there may be music without rhythm (note that of the Oriental peoples), there may be music without harmony; but there can be no music without melody. This, therefore, must constitute the starting-point of the psychologists' investigations. The fundamental error in musical theory, according to the author, is that the basis of all music is the so-called diatonic scale. It is this view, he believes, that has prevented the development of a scientific theory of music.

LE BASI NATURALI DELLA POLITICA E DEL DIRITTO. By *Avv. Arturo Bruchi*. Piti-gliano: Premiato Stabilimento Tipografico Osvaldo Paggi. 1902. Pages, 114. Price, L. 1.50.

In this little brochure, Signor Bruchi has concisely discussed the natural foundations of politics and law. Whatever may be the value of the author's conclusions, he is himself personally certainly not lacking in a species of grim humor. With a sort of premonition of the fate of his work, he dedicates it to his "Four Readers." He remarks that whoever cares to read it should do so, not with the desire to be diverted, but with the purpose of thinking profoundly. He begs whosoever may have the hardihood to attack his little work not to begin at the end and read backward to the beginning, after the fashion of the Chinese, but to begin with the first letter of the first paragraph and to pursue his penitential task to the bitter end. Believing that these conditions will be too exacting for the great majority of modern readers, he has placed the mathematical limit of his reading public at the

number four. Why not seven, or three, or none, does not clearly appear from his argument. But from so candid a preface one is led to expect much, and it is quite likely that Signor Bruchi will find a much larger circle of readers than his gloom has anticipated. μκρκ.

LES PRINCIPES DE LA MÉCANIQUE RATIONELLE. Par *C. de Freycinet*, de l'Institut.  
Paris: Gauthier-Villars, Imprimeur-Libraire. 1902. Pp., viii, 167.

In his customary clear and simple style M. C. de Freycinet of the Institute of France has here endeavored to give to the world a study of the principles of rational mechanics which shall restore that science to its ancient dignity. The prevailing spirit of treating the principles of mechanics is an entirely abstract one. Real physical bodies are neglected and systems are constructed in which mass and force play the part of mere algebraic entities: postulates and axioms are propounded, and the movements are sought which these systems are constrained to take conformably to the initial hypotheses. As an eminent geometer has said: "The dualism between force and matter which crept into the ancient mechanics is by this expedient avoided."

Now, in M. de Freycinet's opinion, the new ways of procedure are not absolutely trustworthy, and are certainly not favorable to the discovery of new laws. He believes it wise to hold to the traditions of Galileo and Newton, D'Alembert, Laplace, and Lagrange, and if there is any change to be made in the methods hitherto reputed classical it is preferable to emphasise even more strongly the experimental character of the principles and to throw still more prominently into relief the *physical* data on which they rest. Unquestionably mechanics as thus set forth is a "mixture" of mathematics and observation, tintured "with some ingredients of anthropomorphism." But what branch of human knowledge, asks M. de Freycinet, can escape a similar censure? Does not every science bear the imprint of our intellectual concepts, and outside the domain of pure logic the imprint also of our sensations of the external world? The fecundity and certitude of a science ought, on the contrary, to be in direct proportion to the intimacy of its contact with nature. M. de Freycinet has accordingly endeavored to strike out again on the roads which the present generation appears to be abandoning. Instead of endeavoring to extenuate in any way the supposititious deficiencies above signalised, he has deliberately augmented them by giving more and more place to empirical considerations. The mixture of observation with mathematics above referred to as indicating a lack of unity will here be rendered still more apparent, though with the distinct hope that the supposed confusion will be lessened. According to M. de Freycinet, the experimental data are the beginning and the reason of the analytical theories; they invest them with that reality without which the most brilliant achievements of analysis are futile.

The book is within the mental reach of any one who possesses an elementary knowledge of mechanics.